

Season begins for arts and crafts shopping

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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It's time to start thinking about what to buy for family and friends this holiday season. Art is a one-of-a-kind gift that tells the receiver you think they're special. A number of shows in October and November offer a variety of paintings, ceramics, jewelry, photography, ornaments, and sculpture suitable for giving.

Here's a guide to where art works are available:

Farmington artist Alice Nichols refers to her watercolors as "peaceful paintings." Many of the scenes were painted at locations near or at her cabin in Tennessee. The entryways and windows lead the viewer into a world where time has all but stood still.

Weathered wood exteriors, field stone walls, a rusty pump—Nichols cherishes the past and shares them with viewers through her reasonably priced paintings. She also shares it with students. Two weeks ago, Nichols took a group of budding artists down to Tennessee to paint the beauty of a purple clematis flower contained behind a rusted wire fence.

"I love my valley," said Nichols. "I hope people find enjoyment in these, something they can relate to. The Museum of Appalachia is a reconstructed village with sheep, goats, barns



Valley View:
Alice Nichols painted this scene from the porch of her Tennessee cabin.

and schools, and Appalachian crafts. I like the old traditional stuff. I'm fascinated with nature. I love rust. It has much more character than new stuff."

The Livonia Arts Commission is exhibiting Nichols paintings through Saturday, Oct. 31 in the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (east of Farmington Road).

An instructor at William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills and Oakland Community College in Royal Oak, Nichols has been painting for more than 40 years. She taught art in junior and senior high schools in Farmington while studying for a master's degree in art education at the University of Michigan.

"I love teaching," said Nichols. "It's exciting to motivate people and share. In college, I had a dull art appreciation teacher and swore I'd never become like him."

Through the years, Nichols,

who exhibits nationally and locally, has shared art with the community in a number of ways. As a charter member of the Farmington Artists Club, she founded the Picture Lady program in Farmington Schools. In recognition of her service to the community, the Farmington Jaycees named her Citizen of the Year and the Farmington Area Arts Commission honored her with its Artist in Residence Award.

"I like entering competitions, to challenge myself and just to exhibit," said Nichols. "I want my students to realize you don't have to be in awe of art but it's hard work. If you focus on all rules will you get a perfect painting? No, that comes from inside and with time. When someone asks me how long it took me to complete a painting, I say 40 years."

Cave, who received his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, has received wide attention for his art along with his association with graffiti artist Keith Haring, and performance artist Karen Finley.

Sybaris is located at 202 E. Third Street, Royal Oak; (248) 544-3388.

MEADOW BROOK BENEFIT

Part of the proceeds from Thursday's performance of "The Miracle Worker" at Meadow Brook Theatre will go to the Leander Dog Don-Blind Training program.

For information, (248) 377-3300.

Something for everyone

The Sugarloaf Art Fair comes to the Novi Expo Center 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Oct. 23-25. More than 325 nationally recognized craft designers and fine artists from 37 states and Canada will show jewelry, clay and porcelain pottery, garden sculptures, art dolls, and stained glass panels.

Admission is \$6, children under age 12 free. For information, call (800) 210-9900.

Local artists showing their work are: Barbara Gibson (pillows) and Diane Dunn (porcelain tiles); Livonia; Carole Berhost (clay); Bloomfield Hills; Stan Megdall (glass); West Bloomfield; Celia Black (hand painted silk clothing); Farmington; Suzanne Jonkind (jewelry); Lake Orion; Catherine Hilker (art dolls); Novi; and Catherine McClung (third art). Whitmore Lake. McClung is the talent behind Lenox's best-selling "bird china."

Fine art for sale

Canton Project Arts hosts its sixth annual Fine Arts Exhibition Saturday-Friday, Oct. 31 to Nov. 6 at Summit on the Park. Cash prizes totaling \$1,500 will be awarded to Best of Show, Second, Third Place, and Merit Award winners after judging by Marjorie Hogan Chellstorp, a Madonna University assistant professor of art and humanities.

Held to coincide with the nationwide celebration of October as National Arts and Humanities Month, the exhibition's goal is to encourage an appreciation for the arts and to showcase talent. Beware though. Not all of the art is for sale. More on this next Sunday. In the meantime for more information, call (734) 397-6450.

Winter Art Fair

The 25th Ann Arbor Winter Art Fair takes place 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road.

Admission is \$6, children

under 10 free. Call (800) 888-9467.

Traditional and contemporary paintings, sculptures, blown glass, pottery, jewelry, and hand woven clothing are among the items for sale by 180 artists including Laura Amendt (glass) and Shari Cohen (jewelry) of Farmington Hills; Molly Baran (fabric), Bloomfield Hills, and Debbie Meller (fiber) and Kathy Phillips (paintings), West Bloomfield.

Plum Tree Pottery

John Glick holds an open house 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at Plum Tree Pottery, 30435 West 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Along with Glick's teapots and wall pieces from the "Mantel Series" there will be an exhibit of Chinese Yixing teapots. While traveling in Central and Northern China with 30 invited ceramic artists from England, Canada, China, and the U.S. earlier this year, Glick visited the Yixing area which has a 600 year long tradition of producing tea wares using the fine grained clays known as Zisha (purple sand) clay. These pots are not for sale but work by Glick and studio assistant Michael Verlinde will be available for purchase.

For more information, call (248) 476-4875.

"ArtShare"

The seventh annual ArtShare Invitational brings together the art of more than 100 Michigan artists for silent and live auctions 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 in the atrium of the Standard Federal Building, 2600 West Big Beaver, Troy.

Photographer Junebug Clark of Farmington Hills; painter/illustrator Robert Dempster, Birmingham; African American quilt designer Carole Harris, Detroit; jewelry artist Caroline Fuerst and painter/wood sculptor Henry Hending, Lathrup Village; tile maker David Ellison, St. Clair Shores; and painter Dominic Pangborn, Detroit are the seven Invitational artists whose work will be in the live auction. Celebrity masters of cer-

emonies are Huel Perkins of WJBK FOX 2 and Sandy Kovach of Smooth Jazz V 98.7 FM.

Tickets are \$50 per person and includes performance by Alexander Zonjic and Friends. Call (248) 626-7527, ext. 3115. Proceeds benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's programs for severely abused children and families in crisis.

"Empty Bowls"

Pewabic Pottery hosts its annual benefit to alleviate hunger in the community 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 at the pottery, 10125 East Jefferson.

For a donation of \$10 to \$20, participants choose a bowl donated by local artists, students children's workshop participants, or Pewabic staff with which they enjoy a meal of soup and bread from restaurants such as Beverly Hills Grill, Sindbad's, Sparky Herbert's, and Tom's Oyster Bar. Guests may then keep the bowl as a reminder of the prevalence of hunger in the community and our power to overcome that hunger. Limit of two bowls per customer. No pre-sale bowls available. All donations go to Gleaners Community Food Bank in Detroit, which serves area agencies feeding the hungry.

Pewabic Pottery's Holiday Invitational Show opens Saturday, Nov. 14 and runs through Dec. 31. "Earthy Treasures" features tiles, jewelry, vessels, ornaments, and ceramic functional and sculptural ware. For collectors, Pewabic is releasing its fourth design of the woodland series along with a 6 by 6 inch reindeer tile.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Pewabic Pottery is also collecting donations of canned and dried food throughout the holidays for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. For further information, call (313) 822-0954.

If you have an interesting idea for a story involving the visual or performing arts, call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin, (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@ec.homecomm.net

ART BEAT

LOCAL ARTIST MOURNED

Theresa Melnick of West Bloomfield, whose mixed-media collages were recognized at art shows throughout the area, died Oct. 11 after a four-year battle with lung cancer.

Melnick's art work which depicts urban landscapes is shown in galleries throughout metro Detroit, and was included in dozens of juried shows throughout the Midwest.

An active parishioner at St. Owen's, Melnick organized many outreach activities to nursing homes and homeless shelters. She is survived by her husband, Alexander, children,

Joseph (Stephanie) Melnick, Antony (Trace) Melnick, Monique (Michael A.) Matson and Shawn Melnick.

Melnick is also survived by eight grandchildren, brother, Joseph Pelletta, and sister, Philomena Liguore.

LAST WEEK FOR SYBARIS EXHIBIT
The three one-person exhibit that opens the Sybaris Gallery's fall season will end on Friday.

The expansive show includes Nick Cave's mixed-media drawings and constructions; June Selwara's enamel vessels; and Alan Burton Thompson's jewelry.

Cave, who received his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, has received wide attention for his art along with his association with graffiti artist Keith Haring, and performance artist Karen Finley.

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Franklin Community Antiques Show

October 22, 23, 24, 1998

Special Preview Party Thursday, October 22, 1998. From: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets \$40.00 Per Person. Includes hors d'oeuvres and Cappuccino bar. Beat the crowd and have the wonderful opportunity to choose from the large selection of antiques presented by 33 different dealers.

Friday, October 23, 1998

Show hours 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 24, 1998

Show hours 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

General admission for Friday and Saturday \$6.00 per person

Looking for something to do? Well then get into your car and come over to the Village of Franklin for the 1998 Franklin Community Antiques Show. Our Country Kitchen will have delicious food if you desire a snack. The Bake Sale will provide freshly baked bread and pies as well as other wonderful items. This is your opportunity to purchase great antiques of all kinds at the Franklin Community Church 32473 Normandy Road, Franklin, MI. (248) 626-6606. The church is located in the heart of Franklin, off Franklin Road, west of Telegraph Road between 13 and 14 Mile roads.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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6:30 p.m. to 12:00 midnight - Dinner guests
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JOIN US FOR A BLACK TIE EVENING OF SEASON'S GREETINGS
Gourmet Feasting ♦ Silent & Live Auctions ♦ Live Entertainment and Dancing

\$50 Sans Dinner Guest - per person

\$125 Dinner Guest per person

\$175 Patron/Dinner Guest per person

For more information call the Junior League office (248) 640-2013

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